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REMARKS

Status Summary

In this Amendment, no claims are canceled, and claims 41-43 are added. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-43 will be pending. A Request for Continued Examination is being filed simultaneously herewith.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14-17, 22-25, and 29-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,816,878 to Zimmers et al. (hereinafter, "Zimmers") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,501,832 to Saylor et al. (hereinafter, "Saylor") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0055897 to Brown et al (hereinafter, "Brown"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 14, and 17 respectively recite a knowledge switch, a hierarchical system of knowledge switches, and a method for distributing information alerts to users. For example, claim 1 recites a knowledge switch having a logic kernel for receiving event information regarding a security event for which an information alert has been defined for locating a corresponding information alert, and for automatically distributing the information alert to intended recipients. A content database stores information that includes the information alert. According to an important aspect of the subject matter described herein, a profiles module stores user profiles including information for distributing the information alert to the intended recipient. The profiles module includes a contact list template for receiving user input for defining a plurality of contact profiles for delivering the information alert to the user. Each contact profile

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indicates at least one mode and contact information for delivering the information alert to the user in the at least one mode. A schedule template associates a plurality of different time periods with the different contact profiles. The knowledge switch delivers the information alert to the user using the contact profiles and time periods.

An example of the contact list template is illustrated in Figure 7 of the present specification. In the contact list template, the user specifies different contact modes and corresponding contact information where the user can receive the information alert. Independent claims 1, 14, and 17 have each been amended to indicate that the contact list template allows the user to specify his or her own different contact profiles for receiving information alerts. Allowing the user to define his or her own different contact profiles for receiving information alerts further increases the likelihood that the information alerts will be delivered to the user.

There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in any of the references cited in the Official Action of a contact list template that allows each user to define his or her own different contact profiles for receiving information alerts regarding security events. As stated in Applicants' response to the previous Official Action, Zimmers discloses a system that allows individuals to be notified of an event, such as a school cancellation, using a 9-byte numeric value identifying a school or other organization (see column 8, lines 15-23 of Zimmers.) However, there is absolutely no mention of a template that allows a user to define a plurality of different contact profiles through which the user receives information alerts or a template that associates the contact profiles with a plurality of different time periods as claimed.

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Saylor is directed to allowing users to access web pages using voice codes. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of a method that allows users to define their own different contact profiles for receiving information alerts.

Brown, which was newly cited in the current Official Action, likewise fails to teach or suggest a contact list template that allows a user to define his or her own different contact profiles at which the user can receive information alerts regarding security events. Rather than defining contact profiles via which the user can receive information alerts, Brown is directed to a system where one user (hereinafter referred to as the monitoring user) defines how output from other users will be displayed to the monitoring user in a chat or instant messaging session. For example, as illustrated in Figure 4 of Brown, the relative participation of user B in a chat session with regard to a particular topic can be displayed to the monitoring user by different levels of translucency in the graphical representations of each topic. In the illustrated example, user B may be talking about topic B 50% of the time, indicated by 50% translucency, topic A for 25% of the time, indicated by 25% translucency, and topic C for 25% of the time, indicated by 25% translucency. These translucency parameters may be adjusted by the monitoring user so that the monitoring user's interface is customized to display output from other users in a manner that the monitoring user prefers. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of a contact list template that allows a user to specify contact modes or contact information through which the user desires to receive information alerts regarding security events.

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In the Official Action, it is indicated that the Abstract, and paragraphs [0058]-[0059] of <u>Brown</u> disclose a contact list template as claimed. Applicants respectfully disagree. The Abstract of <u>Brown</u> is as follows:

A method, system, and program for specifying monitored user participation in a messaging session is provided. A time status for a messaging system element is determined. The time status corresponds to a type of participation by at least one user in a messaging session. An output attribute is assigned to the messaging system element according to the time status, such that output of the messaging system element is specified to depict time status for the messaging session. A client messaging system, receiving the messaging system element with the output attribute, graphically displays the messaging system element in order to graphically reflect user participation in a messaging session.

The Abstract of <u>Brown</u> reinforces Applicants' position above that <u>Brown</u> is directed to a method for allowing a monitoring user to customize the graphical display of an instant messaging session according to the preferences of the monitoring user. For example, the time status referred to in the Abstract indicates the time that a user in a chat session has been participating in the chat session. <u>Brown</u> discloses that the time status can be used to control an output parameter in the monitoring user's chat session such that the relative times that other users have been participating in the chat session are indicated graphically to the monitoring user. (See paragraph [0071] of <u>Brown</u>.)

Paragraphs [0058] and [0059] of <u>Brown</u> likewise fail to teach or suggest a contact lists template as claimed. Paragraphs [0058] and [0059] of <u>Brown</u> as follows:

[0058] Messaging service **42** includes a user profiles database **60** that includes profile information for each user, including, but not limited to, a user identification, user time status preferences, a user history, a user schedule, and current participation recorded as the user participates in messaging sessions. The user identification stored in user profiles **60** during registration is utilized across multiple channels for identifying entries provided by that user.

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[0059] Time status controller 62 is advantageously a software application executing within messaging server 42 in order to control determination of user participation, specify output attributes for messaging system elements according to the monitored user participation, and distribute the messaging system elements with specified output attributes to multiple client messaging systems according to user preferences for each system.

The above-quoted paragraphs from Brown indicate that messaging server 42 allows a user to store a profile in a database. However, as described above, the profile allows the monitoring user to control how a chat session is graphically displayed to the monitoring user. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of a contact list template that allows a user to specify contact modes through which the user receives information alerts regarding security events. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over Zimmers and Saylor in view of Brown should be withdrawn.

Claim 3 is rejected as unpatentable over Zimmers in view of Saylor in view of Brown and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,924 to Austin (hereinafter, "Austin"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1. As stated with regard to the rejection of claim 1 as unpatentable over Zimmers in view of Saylor in view of Brown, these references fail to teach or suggest a contact list template that allows a user to specify his or her own contact profiles for delivering information alerts regarding security events to the user. Austin likewise lacks such teaching or suggestion. Austin is directed to providing alternatives to paper-based mail that allows the same level of personalization as paper-based mail (see column 2, lines 3-6 of Austin.) Rather than delivering information alerts regarding security events to recipients, the delivery examples in Austin relate to financial and marketing information. In addition, rather than automatically delivering an

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information alert to recipients, <u>Austin</u> requires a user to send a request for specific information. (See block **110** in Figure 6A of <u>Austin</u>.) Yet another reason that <u>Austin</u> fails to teach or suggest a contact list template as claimed in independent claim 1 is that <u>Austin</u> fails to disclose any templates that allows a user to associate contact information with schedule information. The examples in <u>Austin</u> relate to delivery of personal information to a user, such as monthly distribution of financial statements. (See e.g., Figure 4A of <u>Austin</u> where the user selects monthly delivery of financial statements.) There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of a system that allows a user to specify contact profiles for receiving information alerts regarding security events. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 3 as unpatentable over <u>Zimmers</u> in view of <u>Saylor</u> in view of <u>Brown</u> and further in view of <u>Austin</u> should be withdrawn.

Claims 12-13, 18-21, and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Zimmers</u> in view of <u>Saylor</u> in view of <u>Brown</u> and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0184131 to <u>Gatto</u> (hereinafter, "<u>Gatto</u>").

Claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 1. Claims 18-21 and 26-28 depend from claim 17. As stated above with regard to the rejection of claims 1 and 17, <u>Zimmers</u>, <u>Saylor</u>, and <u>Brown</u> fail to teach or suggest a method where a user can use a contact list template to define contact profiles that specify contact modes where the user receives information alerts regarding security events or associating the user's schedule with these modes. <u>Gatto</u> likewise lacks such teaching or suggestion. <u>Gatto</u> is directed to a system that analyzes securities, where "security" refers to a marketable interest in a company. For example, <u>Gatto</u> discloses that a user may be contacted via various

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modes of communication when a financial model is applied and an estimate exceeds a calculated average. (See paragraphs [0202] and [0203] of <u>Gatto</u>.) There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of allowing a user to specify, via a contact template, different modes for delivering an information alert regarding a security event to the user or associating different modes with different times in the user's schedule. Accordingly, for these reasons, the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over <u>Zimmers</u> in view of <u>Saylor</u> in view of <u>Brown</u> and further in view of <u>Gatto</u> should be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 41-43 are added. Support for new claims 41-43 appears, for example, in Figure 9 and in the corresponding description of the present specification. New claims 41-43 are believed to be patentable over the references cited in the Official Action for the reasons stated above with regard to the corresponding independent claims, in addition, for the additional elements recited in these claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

<u>If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.</u>

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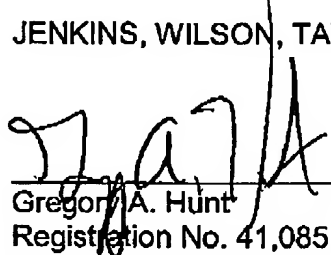Serial No. 10/020,260

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. **50-0426**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 13, 2006   By: _____

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